

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please correct the Specification as follows:

Please replace Paragraph 35 with the following:

If an inspection is determined to be needed (block 218), then the power plant block is made unavailable (block 220) by putting it into an inspection mode. The simulation engine will also look ahead to see whether the determined inspection date will coincide with a “blackout” period during which outages should not occur. If this is the case, then the actual inspection is should be scheduled before the blackout period. When an inspection is done, any collateral maintenance associated with the inspection is also done. After the inspection is complete, the block is made available again, and the operation cycle is repeated for the next operation period. At the end of the simulation period, the simulation tool updates the cost model (block 222) and may present the results to the user in a variety of different formats, including line plots, bar charts, summary tables, as well as displaying the raw data. Further, the user also has the ability to extract the summary tables and raw data into comma separated files for external analysis with other applications.

Please replace Paragraph 36 with the following:

As previously stated, the simulation tool is accessible through a web-based user interface, which is preferably compatible with both Internet Explorer 5.0 INTERNET EXPLORER 5.0™ and above and Netseape version 4.0 NETSCAPE VERSION 4.0™ and above. INTERNET EXPLORER™ and NETSCAPE™ are the trademarked net browser application generally used as front-end browsers. Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary screen shot of a login screen that may be used to access the simulation tool.

As is shown, the simulation tool is associated with a URL (uniform resource locator) 300 that corresponds to a general login screen 302 that prompts the user for a username and password. Upon a successful login, the user is presented with a home screen 400, such as shown in Figure 4, for example. The home screen 400 includes a menu bar 402, a plant configuration region 404, and a scenario select/run region 406.

Please replace Paragraph 37 with the following:

The plant configuration region 404 of the user interface allows for the configuration of a new power plant to be used in a simulation scenario. A new plant configuration may be based upon one of several standard plant configurations, as indicated by selections 408. Alternatively, the new plant may be based upon one or more previously user-configured plants, accessible through drop-down menu 410 (not labeled in Figure 4). An example of a screen shot 500 of a plant configuration option is shown in Figure 5.

Please replace Paragraph 44 with the following:

However, a second table 904 illustrates a trade-off with respect to a contract constraint violation; that is, the effect of the improved output on the amount of time the increased plant output violates the constraints. As shown in the example, the baseline plant operation already results in 1572 hours per year that the plant output capacity exceeds output constraints, translating into \$7.89 million in lost revenue. With the improved compressor, the output constraint violation more than doubles, to 3294 hours. This in turn results in an additional \$2.62 in additional lost revenue due to violation of maximum plant constraints. Accordingly, the tables generated as a result of this scenario will assist a user in performing a trade-off analysis to determine whether the procurement of an improved compressor will provide sufficient ROI. In addition to tabular form, the simulation tool also provides for bar charts and time-based line plots, as shown by plot

906 in Figure 9. Additional types of charts may also be generated by a user by exporting the simulation data to a spreadsheet program, such as Excel EXCEL™. EXCEL™ is a Microsoft's office processing application.